

From the Athenian.  
**ATHENS ANTI-TARIFF MEETING.**

*Athens, August 6th, 1828.*

A very large number of the citizens of Clarke county, and persons from all parts of this State, casually in the village, met at the College Chapel, pursuant to notice, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Judge CLAYTON called the meeting to order, and stated briefly the object of it; and on his motion the Honorable WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD was appointed Chairman.

On motion, Judge CLAYTON and Mr. JAMES CAMAK were appointed Secretaries.

Judge WAYNE addressed the meeting briefly, and moved that a committee be appointed to draw up a report and resolutions on the subject of the late tariff, to be submitted to an adjourned meeting to-morrow.

Which motion having been adopted, the following persons were appointed to compose that committee, viz:

- Judge Wayne,
- Hon. Senator Berrien,
- Hon. Senator Cobb, of Greene.
- Hon. Geo. R. Gilmer, of Oglethorpe.
- Judge Clayton of Clarke,
- Dr. Charles Williamson, of Baldwin.
- Hon. C. C. Haynes, of Hancock.
- Judge M'Donald, of Bibb.
- Hon. Wilson Lumpkin, of Morgan.
- Geo. M. Troup, of Laurens.

On motion the meeting was then adjourned till to-morrow, 3 o'clock, P. M.

*August 7th, 1828.*

Pursuant to adjournment, about one thousand persons met at the College Chapel.

Judge WAYNE, from the committee appointed yesterday, submitted to the meeting the following report and resolutions which were unanimously adopted, with the exception of the 5th resolution, on which a division was called for; and on division that resolution was adopted by a large majority, not more than 15 or 20 persons voting against it.

No act of Congress since the adoption of the Federal Constitution has caused more excitement in the Southern States than the act "in alteration of the several acts, imposing duties upon imports." Nor has any other act ever irritated the feelings of so large a portion of the American people into discontent with our Union, or created so much doubt of its prospective benefit.— A measure which can weaken in any part of our nation an attachment cemented by so many remembrances of glory and of suffering, and hitherto strengthened by anticipations of national happiness and greatness, must be doubtful in its policy as well as in its constitutional authority. The principle assumed by the advocates of the tariff that Congress can, in the exercise of its powers to lay duties upon imports and to regulate commerce, use those powers to build up any one national interest at the expense of another, was not contemplated by the framers of the constitution. It was not conceived by them that a right to lay imposts, to raise revenue, to give stability to commerce, to pay the debts of the confederacy, and to prepare for those exigencies which might menace our honour or existence as a nation, could ever be used by Congress indirectly to produce by its operation upon commerce, a direct taxation, devoid of that uniformity which the Constitution commands.

Such, however, is the construction of the Constitution by a small majority in Congress; and if the interest which it fosters shall advance in the ratio of its past increase, and be cherished by the same spirit of protection, it will necessarily produce a total change in the commercial policy of the nation. Instead of enjoying a free trade with the world, reaping the advantages which the suitableness of our products to the wants of Europe will afford, extending that spirit of adventure which has carried the enterprize of our people over every sea into every land, we shall be compelled to an intercourse with our own states with inadequate capital to buy the products of agriculture. To the restrictions of Europe upon our trade, we shall have superadded multiplied restrictions of our own legislation. Will the blow to southern prosperity be lighter because it is struck by our brethren? Or will the oppression of our interests be less lasting or galling because its fetters have been forged at home? And is there any difference in principle between the coercion of our trade by England when these states were colonies, and the recent legislation of Congress, giving to a few states of the union the markets of the south without a rival, and in that way the uncontrolled command of the prices of its produce.

In a political point of view, each state is equally essential to the existence of our confederacy, but in a commercial aspect we cannot forget that the southern states, since the organization of the government, have produced more than the half of the exports of the whole nation, and have given life, activity, energy and profit to its commerce.

From the oppressiveness of the tariff, however, we can be relieved by constitutional opposition; and it is our intention at this meeting to give to the nations of the world living under different political systems from our own, and looking with an envious eye upon the duration of our great republic, another proof of the peacable triumph of popular suffrage over legislative usurpation. Threats and menaces against the policy of our misguided brethren, or against the confederation of the States, we disclaim; they would be beneath the dignity of the occasion which has assembled us, and the deliberate purpose which shall mark our resolves. We do not forget that in most of the States by whose legislative votes the tariff has been passed, that there are respectable minorities who suffer from it, and it is our desire that there shall be a bond between us to remove the common source of our distress. We invoke their union in the spirit of that patriotism which the father of his country inculcates in his farewell address; and we warn our political adversaries, that if the sepulchre of our uni-

on shall be prepared before another generation shall have lived, it will be caused by those whose sectional partialities exceed their love of country, whose constitutional scruples readily yield to expediency, and who believe that there cannot be too much of federal legislation upon the internal concerns of the States.

1st. *Resolved*, That the act of Congress, commonly called the tariff, is unconstitutional in spirit and intent; being a perversion of the power granted in the Constitution to lay duties upon imports, for the purpose of raising revenue; is unworthy of the honest and sincere principles which produced the Federal Union, and cannot be pronounced to be unconstitutional, only because it veils its objects in its title and enactments.

2d. *Resolved*, That the power assumed by the General Government, to impose duties on imports, beyond the requisitions of revenue, and for the purpose of promoting the interests of one portion of the American people, by the imposition of burdens on the residue, is founded on a principle,—the power of the General Government, to do whatever the Legislature of the Union may deem conducive to the general welfare,—the admission of which, by the people of the States, will place all their rights at the entire discretion, and subject to the absolute control of that government.

3d. *Resolved*, That as the Union is dear to the people of the south, it should not be jeopardized by any measures of an angry or violent character, and as ours is a government of laws, founded upon public opinion, any effort to enlighten it should be of a peaceable and constitutional nature.—Those efforts should be remonstrance against the law of which we now complain, and an earnest request for its repeal; an appeal to our fellow citizens throughout the Union to aid in this measure; an appeal to our fellow citizens in this State to express their opinion upon this subject, that Congress may not doubt that the tariff is destructive to the interests of the people of Georgia, and, that so far as a respect for the opinions of a whole State may have weight or influence, the occasion for the exercise of that respect by Congress, may not be wanting.

4th. *Resolved*, That the people of this state be earnestly urged, not only by the expression of their opinions, but by acts to evince their disapprobation of the tariff law, by making and producing every article of consumption within their power, that they may live independently of the supplies hitherto furnished by other States.

5th. *Resolved*, That if it should be necessary to counteract the tariff, by acts of State Legislation, an excise by the southern States upon articles introduced into them, when they become the subjects of sale, will be constitutional, and even if such measures shall produce additional burdens and privations to ourselves, we exhort the patriotism of our people cheerfully to bear them, rather than to submit to a policy which will multiply restrictions upon trade until they are more oppressive than those by which these States were trammelled in their colonial condition. Those privations and burdens will be temporary, if the course recommended shall be faithfully and spiritedly persevered in; and perseverance will give to us those habits of economy and of domestic manufacture, which will supply every want from our own resources.

Judge WAYNE moved that a committee be appointed to carry into effect the 3d resolution, so far as it contemplates an appeal to the people of the State of Georgia.

Which motion having been adopted, the following gentlemen were appointed to compose that committee:

Judge Wayne, Gen. W. W. Holt,  
Hon. Senator Berrien, Hon. W. Lumpkin,  
Judge Clayton.

The meeting was then adjourned.

W. H. CRAWFORD, *Chairman*.

A. S. CLAYTON, } *Secretaries*.  
JAMES CAMAK, }